(a) whether Government have received any representations from the Central Electricity Authority and/or the Council of Power Utilities and/or the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for rationalisation for coal linkage;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to deal with these representations;

(c) whether joint sampling of coal for power stations now being carried out in terms of specifications of the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(d) if so, whether he or any Senior Officials of the Coal Ministry actually visited the power stations to ascertain the fact as to which of the claims and counter claims made by the Coal India Limited and the SEBs are true; and

(e) if so; what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) In the beginning of each year; Central Electricity Authority (CEA) under the Ministry of Power assess the total coal requirements of all power stations according to their generation targets . In accordance with these requirements; quarterly allotments are being made by Standing Linkage Committee (Short Term) for Power set up by Ministry of Coal. The quarterly meetings of the Committee are being attended by representatives of CEA; Power Houses, Railways and Ministries of Coal and Power. Any requests for rationalisation/modifications of propsed linkages are considered and accommodated to the extent possible taking into consideration the various constraints such as availability of coal; transport bottlenecks etc.

(c) to (e) Sampling of coal for power stations is being done at the loading and before despatch. Coal India Limited (CIL) has already written to the Power Houses to participate in the sampling arrangements at the loading end. Joint sampling is carried out in accordance with the guidelines/specifications inforce with such modifications as may be agreed betiween the parties to joint sampling.

Coal Controller's Organisation which is a subordinate office of Ministry of Coal has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring quality of coal. Coal Controller has been provided with additional staff to carry out this responsibility.

Decontrol of various grades of Coal

781. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the various grades of Coal decontrolled in the country;

(b) the reasons for the decontrol;

(c) the outcome and impact after the decontrol;

(d) whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINITTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Presently allotments of all grades of coal is controlled under the provisions of Colliery Control Order. However, in case some collieries have coal stocks which are in excess of demand. Such excess quantities are allowed to be sold under Liberalished Sale Scheme after inviting offer from intending purchasers.

(d) and (e) Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) who have undertaken a study of coal industry have in their interim recommendations; suggested price decontrol for all coking coals and higher grades of non-coking coals.